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Thursday
DECEMBER 12, 2013

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

LENNY GILMORE/
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WINE QUEST

Warm up to
your new
favorite
winter red
pages 18-19

Too hot for friends? LOL **4**

Tragedy in Lawndale **6**

Team Josh or Team Jay? **11**

BY JULIA BORCHERTS FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT

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DRINK

STONE EPIC XMAS The Bar on Buena

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It's time to tap a barrel of 12.12.12—the 2012 edition in Stone Brewing's Vertical Epic Series—which has been cellaring for a year. Try a glass for \$7 or compare it to the brewery's 11.11.11 and 10.10.10 varieties from newly tapped barrels in a \$9 Vertical Flight. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY PARTY Municipal Bar & Dining Co.

216 W. Ohio St. 312-951-2125

Get ready to see and be seen—the River North spot's 2013 celeb sightings include Michael Jordan, Jay Cutler, Joakim Noah, Jenny McCarthy and Kristin Cavallari—at this bash which features \$8 Russian Standard vodka cocktails and beats by DJ Irie. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.



DECK THE HALL & OATES

Cole's Bar 2338 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-276-5802

The spandex-clad DJ posse Fabulous Ladies of Fitness and guest DJ LA Jesus highlight Daryl & John's greatest hits with throwback pop and R&B tunes and silly seasonal jams at this holiday-themed dance party where '80s MTV apparel, retro fitness gear and fabulous festive garb are encouraged—prizes are awarded for creative costumes. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.

7 STORIES (THE LINE BETWEEN)

Martin's Corner 2056 W. 22nd Place 773-847-5515

Drag king Jimmy Danger hosts tales by six Chicago writers plus a staged reading of a short play by local scribe Emily Passmore. Share a three- to five-minute unwritten or scripted story of your own during the intermission open mic. 8 p.m. \$3-\$5 suggested donation.



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Traveling over the holidays? De-stress in O'Hare's free yoga room in Terminal 3.

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December 17, 2013 • 4:30-6:00pm

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TIME TO PLAY BALL!

Wrigley Field deal is done (again), and M-Rahm wants the Cubs to get to work

Chicago Tribune

The Chicago City Council had barely finished giving the Cubs additional freedom to expand Wrigley Field and schedule night games Wednesday when Mayor Emanuel delivered a message to the Ricketts family: It's time to break out the jackhammers already.

"They need to get started, and I was clear and unambiguous with the ownership about that even prior to today's City Council actions," the mayor said.

Emanuel added a high-profile voice to what many at City Hall and more than a few Cubs fans who suffered through brutal back-to-back seasons have wondered since the team won broad city approval in July for a \$300 million face-lift for the aging, historic ballpark. Cubs brass has indicated that improvements on the baseball side are tied to additional money coming in from the stadium project—but, well into the off season, the work hasn't started.

The holdup is Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts' insistence that the owners of nearby rooftop clubs with lucrative views into the ballpark agree not to sue the team over sightlines that might be blocked by the digital billboard or a "see-through" advertising sign planned for right field. Team officials also note they haven't received approval for a liquor license in a plaza that's part of a \$200 million revitalization outside the stadium.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to move forward, and we're anxious to start work," Cubs Vice President Mike Lufrano said after Wednesday's votes. "We know there are a couple of issues that we're trying to work through with the rooftops, and we've had good discussions. We're hopeful that we'll be able to reach a conclusion soon and get in the ground and start working."

For Ald. Tom Tunney (44th)—who has tried to bal-



Plans approved Wednesday include moving back Wrigley's left- and right-field walls, affecting Waveland and Sheffield avenues. **BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE**

ance the often-competing interests of Wrigleyville residents, rooftop club owners and the Ricketts family—that conclusion can't come too soon.

"I emphasize that the Cubs need to start to work as soon as possible," Tunney told fellow aldermen. "I think the time that we've exhausted some of the patience of my colleagues, certainly my neighborhood groups."

WHAT THE CUBS GOT

On Wednesday, aldermen voted to allow the Cubs to put up an arch with advertising over Clark Street between the hotel across the street from Wrigley and the plaza slated for a triangular parcel just west of the park. The team also will be allowed to play up to 43 regular-season night games, instead of the 46 approved in June, but with more flexibility to shift day games to night games without prior approval. They also will be allowed to push the exterior right field wall back 15 feet, cutting out street parking on Sheffield Avenue, and the left-field wall back 16 feet, eliminating street parking on Waveland Avenue. To compensate for about 58 lost spaces, the team will provide free parking to neighborhood residents in nearby lots.

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Are you too sexy for *any* friends?



Katie Killacky

redeye@tribune.com
@katiekillacky

I'm tickled when I am roped into conversations with delusional people.

Most recently I was chatting with a tall, slender blonde who seemed rather affable. As our talk progressed, she informed me that she really didn't have a lot of close friends. I found nothing odd about this. While I

surround myself with circles upon circles of people, I have friends within those circles who tend to be more guarded or less social and keep their own circles closer and smaller.

However, it was her next statement that threw up a red flag: "Yeah, I've just never been able to really make girlfriends because of my looks."

There have been a couple of other instances I can remember of women testifying that the reason for their lack of girlfriends is due to the jealousy and insecurities of other women. While I'm not doubting the existence of insanely jealous and insecure females, is it possible someone could go through life without friends because she is just "too pretty"?

I'm gonna go ahead and answer that with a great big HELL NO.

That would be like me saying I don't have a job because I'm too smart, though at least with that statement there's a slight element of truth. I would just never come out and tell a prospective employer that. See? Too smart.

If we followed

this line of logic, that would mean no insanely hot girl would ever have friends. So explain Cameron and Drew, Nicole and Naomi, Penelope and Selma, Selena and Taylor. I'm sure the ladies who have convinced themselves they are too pretty also have convinced themselves they are more attractive than either member of these pairings. In fact, I feel a bit silly even trying to defend my "HELL NO" with valid examples because it is falling on deaf—albeit pretty—ears.

Here's the deal: If you don't have friends, it is because you're terrible.

I suppose it could also be by choice. Or perhaps there are extenuating circumstances in which you are maybe, say, a time traveler and every time you start to hit it off with someone you're transported into an alternate universe and never have the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships. In fact, I suggest these "too pretty" women start using this excuse instead, because at least it makes one sound interesting.

Who gave pretty people the right to play victim? Just once, I would like to see an interview with a supermodel where she doesn't go into a story about how she was an ugly duckling when she was younger.

How refreshing it would be to watch Leno and not hear some leggy Brazilian carry on about how high school was so rough because everyone "called me Olive Oyl" because she was tall and skinny and teased for her large rack. Give me a break. High school was rough because you were dumb.

Without doing any research on this, I'm gonna go out on a limb and say that with rare exceptions, pretty people have the advantage at every job interview, VIP line and dating website. So quit your moaning and go get some new friends.

Or a new personality ...

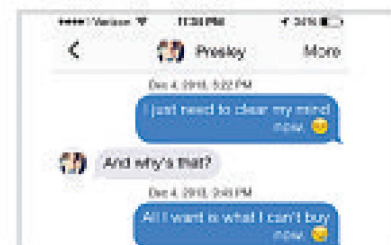
KATIE KILLACKY IS
A REDEYE SPECIAL
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GETTY IMAGES

3 TO TRY TUMBLR THURSDAY

You know the drill by now—if you're not following these Tumblrs already, you should be. Have a suggestion for a Tumblr to feature? Send a tweet to @jessicagalliant. —JESSICA GALLIANT, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY



TUMBLR PHOTOS

Trapped in the Tinder

trappedinthetinder.tumblr.com
Want to start your own Tumblr meme? Just pick a social network or online dating service and send out random rap lyrics as conversation. This one's mission: "Just trying to get in them jeans one rap lyric at a time."

[Bleep] Rough Drafts

bleep.roughdrafts.com
Rhymes with "quit." I actually don't believe that all rough drafts are garbage, but this Tumblr features a few ones that are legitimately terrible. Oh, just kidding, these are all fake. Still funny, though.



percipianetworks Same view walking out of the Lake Street subway every day, but it's always nice to look up and take in how beautiful this city is! #state #lake #312commute

312Works

312works.tumblr.com
This one is ours! Follow the Tumblr for our new Instagram storytelling project, 312Works, to check out a few of our favorite submissions so far for the first theme, #312commute, and find out how to get involved.



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chicago

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29°15
Take a nap

United Airlines will keep its name on the United Center for the next 20 years, the stadium and airline announced Wednesday.



A police officer at the scene where a baby girl was found dead Wednesday in Lawndale. BRIAN JACKSON PHOTOS FOR TRIBUNE

Lawndale infant dies

Girl among 3 children found alone in apartment

Chicago Tribune

Police were seeking felony child-endangerment charges Wednesday night against a woman in the death of her infant daughter, who was found by a neighbor earlier in the day strapped into a car seat in the family's West Side apartment.

The girl was pronounced dead after 4 p.m. at Mount Sinai Hospital, where her two sisters, ages 2 and 6, were taken for evaluation, authorities said.

The infant and her sisters had been left alone in their first-floor apartment in a red brick building in the 3700 block of West 13th Street, according to police, who also said the

neighbor found the baby around 3:30 p.m. wrapped in a snow suit with a blanket covering her.

The neighbor found the infant after one of her older sisters went to the neighbor's door looking for food.

The girl's mother, age 25, was arrested around 4:30 p.m. about two blocks from the apartment and was speaking to investigators late Wednesday, police said.

One neighbor said she saw paramedics carry the baby out of the apartment building.

"It was shocking," said Tierra Stamps, 28. "I couldn't believe it."

In the building, red and green Christmas lights flashed from a second-floor apartment.

Outside, two girls with bright pink backpacks could be seen walking on snow-packed sidewalks past news trucks.



The apartment where the children were found

About 6:40 p.m., the final pair of detectives walked out the building's front door to an unmarked squad car.

Asked about the living conditions inside the home, the detectives referred all questions to News Affairs.

Female homicides remain level

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

Though homicides in Chicago are down nearly 20 percent versus 2012, almost the same number of women have been killed this year as were killed last year, a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data found.

Forty-eight women have been killed in homicides out of 404 killings so far this year, as of Tuesday night. Forty-nine women were killed in homicides in 2012, which saw 519 killings overall.

This year, high-profile female homicides included the death of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, who was shot in January, and the death of 6-month-old Jonylah Watkins, who was shot in March.

About a third of the female victims this year were shot to death and about a third were stabbed to death, RedEye determined.

REDEYE'S REGULAR TALLY OF HOMICIDES WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.
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EXPRESS LINES

- » TCF National Bank said Wednesday it will close 37 branches inside Jewel stores in order to focus on growth elsewhere, including the addition of more "L" station ATMs.
- » Under a proposal introduced Wednesday by Mayor Emanuel, the Hadiya Pendleton Foundation would be able to temporarily use office space at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Bronzeville for \$1 through 2016.
- » After more than three decades in prison, Stanley Wrice was released Wednesday from Pontiac Correctional Center a day after a Cook County judge threw out his rape conviction.
- » Five people were injured, three of them seriously, in a crash involving a semi-trailer truck that shut the inbound Skyway on Wednesday, authorities said. TRIBUNE, REDEYE

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Hot sauce shipping stopped until January

1 Sriracha hot sauce manufacturer Huy Fong Foods can not ship out any more sauce until mid-January. Their sauces must now be held for at least 35 days before they can be shipped, the company confirmed Wednesday. It's not clear whether the hold is a new requirement.

Time names pope its Person of the Year

2 Time magazine has named Pope Francis its Person of the Year, reflecting the energy and the positive image he has brought to the scandal-weary Roman Catholic Church. The magazine credited Francis with restoring a common touch to the papacy and with "balancing judgment with mercy."

U.S., Britain suspend non-lethal aid to Syria

3 The United States and Britain suspended non-lethal aid to northern Syria after Islamist fighters seized Western-backed rebel weapons warehouses, highlighting fears that supplies could end up in the wrong hands. The suspension underlines a crisis for the FSA leadership, which needs international backing to reinforce its credibility.

FDA sets new guidelines for livestock antibiotics

4 In a bid to stem a surge in human resistance to certain antibiotics, U.S. regulators announced new guidelines to phase out their use as a growth enhancer in livestock. Although voluntary, the FDA on Wednesday announced that two of these biggest purveyors of those antibiotics had already agreed to narrow their use.

Court restores ban on gay sex in India

5 In a reversal that surprised many gay activists and flew in the face of changes seen in some other countries recently, India's Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned a 2009 Delhi High Court decision that decriminalized homosexual sex between consenting adults, in effect making homosexuality a crime again.



The official sign language interpreter stands next to President Obama during Nelson Mandela's memorial service Tuesday in Johannesburg. The interpreter is accused of being a fake who merely flapped his arms around during speeches. GETTYIMAGES

Memorial interpreter a fake?

6 JOHANNESBURG The official sign language interpreter at Nelson Mandela's state memorial service on Tuesday didn't even know the gestures for "South Africa" or "thank you," according to representatives of organizations for deaf people.

The man, whose identity has not been made public, just seemed to make up random gestures that bore no relationship to sign language interpreting for deaf people, the critics said.

"It was like getting somebody off the street and telling them to flap their hands around," Cara Loening, director of Cape Town-based Sign Language Education and Development, told the South African Press Association.

"There was zero percent accuracy," said Delphin Hlungwane, of DeafSA, an organization representing the deaf. "He couldn't even get the basics right. He couldn't even say

thank you," she told Reuters. "He just invented his signs as he went along."

Government spokesman Collins Chabane said the government would investigate the issue after events commemorating former president Mandela were over.

Organizations representing deaf people reacted with indignation at the bizarre interpretation, saying it made a mockery of them.

"Get him off," tweeted Wilma Newboudt, deaf South African lawmaker, during the service.

The scandal was one of several glaring problems in South Africa's organization of the Mandela memorial events and funeral. For one thing, there was a large number of empty seats in the stadium for the Mandela memorial; secondly, there were many complaints of inadequate or nonexistent security checks on public attendees at the memorial,

STATE SELFIE

The cellphone camera snap heard 'round the world captured President Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron and Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt united in a playful moment Tuesday at the hourlong celebration of Mandela's long and inspirational life. All three leaders have taken heat from their political opponents at home for laughing at a funeral gathering and taking the "selfie."

despite there being more than 90 world leaders in one place.

There also was the embarrassing boing of South African President Jacob Zuma in front of global leaders, described Wednesday by Chabane as "the wrong thing" and "undesirable."



THE DIGIT

24 million

That's the number of active users on Spotify, according to founder and CEO Daniel Ek, who announced Wednesday that the music streamer had launched free service for smartphones and tablets. Listeners previously had to pay for connection to a mobile device.

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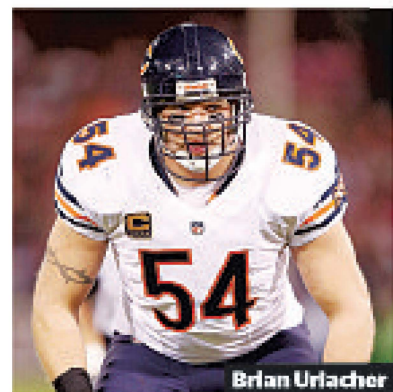
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ChicagoAthleticClubs.com

TEAM JOSH

"With McCown playing like he played last night—you have a game like that in December in prime time—it's the second Monday night game McCown has won. These are big stages. At a certain point the pendulum is going to swing away from Jay Cutler and toward the guy with the hot hand."

—Mike Florio of ProFootballTalk.com, on WSCR-AM 670



Brian Urlacher

"In my opinion, [McCown] should be the guy, he should be the starting quarterback for the Bears. Even if Jay Cutler's healthy. You can't take a guy who's this hot out of the football game. If I was on that team, I would have a hard time with them taking him out."

—Former Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher, on "Fox Sports Daily"

“Been saying for weeks McCown is the truth in this system. Take comp pick for Cutler (or franchise trade), give McCown \$5M/yr plus incentives”

—Jason La Canfora, CBS Sports NFL insider, via Twitter



Josh McCown

Jay Cutler

CHICAGO TRIBUNE AND GETTYFILE IMAGES PHOTOS

WHO'S YOUR QUARTERBACK?

Just because the Bears continue to back Jay Cutler doesn't mean he's the only choice

RedEye

The Bears are nothing if not consistent. No, not on the field, but rather how they are all-in with Jay Cutler as their starting quarterback, regardless of how hot Josh McCown is. Of course, not everyone agrees with that assessment. That includes a certain former Bears linebacker who now occupies a broadcaster's chair.

2013 Stats	Yards	Yds/Game	Comp. %	Yds/Att.	TD-INT	Rating
Josh McCown	1,809 (27)	258 (11)	66.8 (5)	8.22 (6)	15-1	109.8 (3)
Jay Cutler	1,908 (25)	239 (19)	63.0 (12)	7.20 (14)	13-8	88.4 (12)

NFL RANKING SOURCE: ESPN.COM

TEAM JAY

"I'm the backup, Jay's our starter. When Jay is healthy, Jay should be the starting quarterback. That's really it. I don't go out here going, 'You know what, if I do this now I'll be the starter.' That's not my mindset. I've told you guys that. My mindset is to serve this team as the backup quarterback as best I can and play efficient football and winning football in this situation to keep us in contention. So, whenever he takes back over, we're in position to make a playoff run."

—Josh McCown

“Maybe Marc Trestman can make a quarterback out of anybody. McCown seems to be showing that. But that also means Trestman could make a Super Bowl quarterback out of someone with Cutler's skills, which are far greater than McCown's.”

—Tribune columnist Steve Rosenbloom



Brandon Marshall

"Jay's our guy."
—Bears receiver Brandon Marshall, after McCown's 348-yard, 4-touchdown passing performance Monday

fiveonfive

GROIN PAINS

From groins to Jay Cutler's "alternate career," it's a bit of a strange day here in the land of Fives. Stranger than usual, anyway.



Matt Pals
@mattpals
RedEye
movies
and music guy



Jane Monzures
@janemonzures
not
radio host,
WGN TV host



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RedEye
Ragin' Cajun



Elise De Los Santos
@eliseokidelo
RedEye
copy editor

1	What's with all the groin injuries among Chicago athletes?	When you have a comedy classic like "Football in the Groin," many will want to remake it.	Not enough hot yoga.	They need Hawk as a trainer. #StretchStretch	I'll quote Clark Jones from the Oct. 22 edition of Five on Five: "Never get too caught up in other men's groin problems."	When the groin gets tough, the tough get groin.
2	What was the Bears' Adam Podlesh thinking after he didn't have to punt Monday?	"Great, now I have time to pursue my preferred career: free money collector."	"Maybe I should have had that second cup of coffee after dinner?"	"Good. My net average is safe from this wind."	"So this is what it feels like to be a politician. Getting paid to do nothing. Hmm, nice!"	"Hmmm, I think I'll grow a 'stache like Ditka's."
3	If Josh McCown can do an anti-porn video, Jay Cutler can ...	You're trying to get me to say something nasty about Kristin Cavallari, and I'm not going to do it.	... sing as Captain von Trapp for the next live "Sound of Music" presentation on NBC.	#AntiOverpaidQB negotiations	What?! What kind of question is this? Wh... Why is McCown doing anti-porn videos?!	... do a porn video. Because you can never make too much money getting sacked.
4	Welcome outfielder Adam Eaton to the White Sox.	Hi, Adam. I don't care about the White Sox. Goodbye.	Wait until you try the concoction of meat on the mufaletta bread.	We don't understand good OBP. #translate4us	Good news: You hit .252 last season. That's a lot better than most Sox players. Bad news: You're now a Sox player.	No hanky panky, Spanky.
5	Mark Prior retired from baseball. What should he do next?	"Pauses to remember the good old days, then the bad days that followed." Don't know; I'm too upset.	Stop talking about the Bartman game. It's been 10 years!	Test towels for manufacturers.	Definitely become a calf model. As a straight male, I'm confident in saying those things were amazing.	Fan interference! Fan interference! ... STILL too soon?



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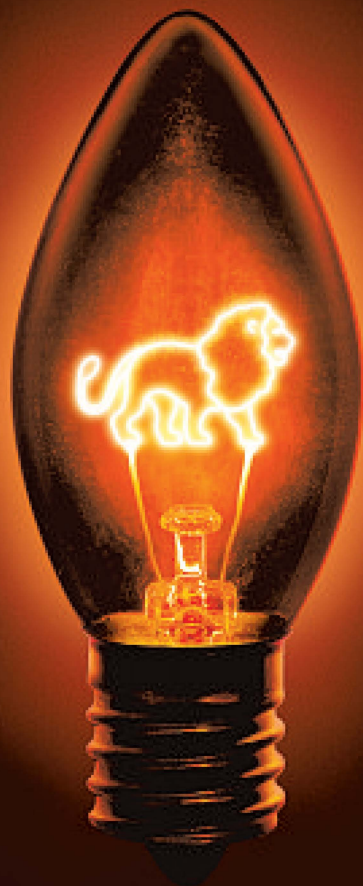
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Josh McCown (from left),
Bears coach Marc Trestman
and Jay Cutler

NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE

Jay Cutler is broken— and not worth fixing



**Alex
Quigley**

» [redeyesports@
tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com)
» @alexquigley

The NFL broke a leaguewide scoring record last week, as all 32 teams combined for 859 points. And the gaudiest quarterback stat line wasn't put up by Peyton Manning, Tom Brady or Drew Brees.

34-year-old Josh McCown, the man with five other NFL teams in his rearview

mirror, totaled five touchdowns and completed 75 percent of his passes in a stadium cold enough to turn beer into slush. Some dude stole a fantasy football playoff win in your league using McCown.

McCown has a 109.8 passer rating, third in the NFL. He should finish with the highest single-season rating in modern Bears history, and possibly ever. (Sid Luckman posted a 107.5 back in 1943, back before the formula for passer rating had been invented.)

A gaudy performance by McCown against the worst defense in football doesn't mean he's the QB who will lead Chicago to the promised land of Games With Roman Numerals. Nor does this great string of games he's played mean he'll continue to perform at this level.

But it does show that the Bears could throw someone like McCown into Marc Trestman's offense and have success. And the Bears have to seriously entertain the thought of allowing Jay Cutler to walk away into Megacontractville, Population: Don't Care.

COST EVALUATION

A look at how Jay Cutler and Josh McCown's salaries compare, the percentage of the Bears' salary cap they are taking up and where their salaries rank among others on the team.

	Cutler	McCown
Base Salary*	\$8,470,000	\$865,000
Percentage of payroll	8.1%	0.8%
Ranking on team	3rd Highest	22nd

* DOES NOT INCLUDE BONUSES SOURCE: FOXSPORTS.COM

The NFL's salary cap total will be around \$120 million in 2014. Cutler's cap number in 2013 is \$10,370,000, and if the Bears need to use the one-year franchise tag for his services in 2014, it'll be more than \$17 million.

That's almost one-seventh of their cap room for one player—a player who's played all 16 games only once in five years. A player whose production has been instantly outdone by a journeyman backup quarterback. That's too steep a price to pay when so many holes need patching on the Bears' leaky defense.

I wish the Bears had given Cutler a better offensive line earlier. And I wish Cutler would agree to a three- or four-year deal worth about what he's receiving right now. But he'll probably get offered stupid money from a franchise more desperate than the Bears (hello, Tennessee!), and Phil Emery should resist the urge to overpay him. As I wrote in the preseason, 2013 was a make or break year for Cutler.

Jay broke.

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I'm a Lenny Dykstra/Kenny Lofton mix of a guy that's going to be a scrappy, dirtbag guy that's going to get after it day in and day out, but hopefully bring a little finesse too and a little bit of speed and quickness to score some runs."

—New White Sox outfielder **Adam Eaton**



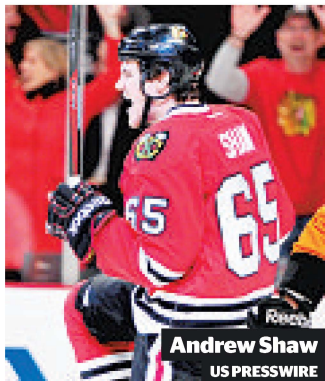
Adam Eaton
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bite your tongue, LeBron!

Way to kick the Bulls when they're down, LeBron James. The NBA star told The Miami Herald there are no rivalries in the league right now. "You don't see the competition enough or play the competition a lot. It's two really, really good teams that [are] striving to win a championship, but rivalries ... there are no more rivalries." That sound you hear is that of Derrick Rose's teeth grinding.

Blackhawks 7, Philadelphia 2

Chicago continued its offensive explosion Wednesday, scoring five goals in the second period and jumping out to an early lead. It was the first time this season the Blackhawks scored five goals in a single period. Chicago now has outscored opponents 19-6 in its past three games.



Andrew Shaw
US PRESSWIRE



HOT DATE
DEC. 27

That's when former Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher will make a one-night-only cameo in the Goodman Theatre's "A Christmas Carol." Urlacher will appear alongside 17-year-old Lemont resident Kenneth Schumacher from Make-A-Wish Illinois. Bulls legend Scottie Pippen, White Sox manager Robin Ventura and Blackhawks legend Bobby Hull have all taken part in the show on behalf of Make-A-Wish Illinois.

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Red wine at
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By Kate Bernot | REDEYE

I don't need to tell you it's freezing outside, but I do need to remind you that if you're hibernating in your apartment without a bottle of wine in your Snuggie-covered lap, well, you're doing it wrong. As crockpots buzz to life, it's the time of year to curl up with an earthy, lush, bold or spicy red wine to drink with dinner—or just your favorite Netflix series. Whether you're shopping at a small wine boutique (see our sidebar of new shops) or grabbing a bottle from the grocery store, there's no reason to feel lost among the shelves. These 10 pointers from Mike Baker, Advanced Sommelier and manager at Vin Chicago (formerly the Wine Discount Center, 1826 N. Elston Ave.), guarantee you'll zero in on a winter red to call your own.

KBERNOT@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEATDRINK



**FIND A WINTER
RED TO CALL
YOUR OWN**

BOTTLE PLAN

- 1 Get in the right frame of mind.** "Realize that buying wine is all about pleasure," Baker said. He acknowledges that shelves can seem overwhelming, but said that approaching them with an open, happy mind will make the process easier. "If you come at it from the mindset of 'This is all about fun,' then you shouldn't run into too many failures."
- 2 Shop small.** If possible, visit a store where staff can answer your questions. "What you sacrifice at convenience places is the experience of someone to guide you," Baker said. "If it's a good place, people will ask you questions. They can guide you toward things you might end up really liking."
- 3 Go to tastings.** What's the best way to learn about wines you'll love? Tasting them. Some shops offer free, informal tastings or classes, which are a great way to become familiar with new bottles in a low-pressure environment. (See our sidebar for new wine shops with tastings.)
- 4 Look beyond the label art.** Yes, that penguin/zebra/owl is adorable, but it tells you little about what's in the bottle. Instead, Baker suggests, look at alcohol levels and grape varieties, both of which should be printed on the front, back or side of the label. After tasting a few styles, you'll find a grape or region that you like.



Vin Chicago
KAITLYN MCQUAID
PHOTOS FOR REDEYE

To conquer opening a bottle of wine (once and for all), watch our quick video how-to at redeyechicago.com/wine.

5 Use your words. “The language of wine tends to be one of its greatest roadblocks,” Baker said. When talking to a store’s staff, try describing why you like a wine, keeping in mind that there’s no wrong vocabulary. Think about adjectives such as “heartly,” “ripe,” “earthy,” “fruity,” “spicy,” etc.

6 Think food. Whether or not you’ll be drinking the wine with a meal is one of the most important considerations when choosing a bottle. With food, Baker recommends asking for a rustic, earthy wine. For sipping solo, he recommends warm, densely fruited varieties.

7 Talk money. The wine shop is not the place to be shy about your budget. “Be forthright about what you want to spend,” Baker said. “The person who’s helping you wants you to be comfortable.”

VALUE REDS



Spain: grenache

California: zinfandel

France: wines from the Southern Rhone and Languedoc regions

Australia: shiraz

8 Think importer, not vineyard. If you’re not familiar with every wine-maker under the sun—and no one is—you can look for the importer label (usually on the back of the bottle) that indicates the middleman between the vineyard and the retailer. Importers are like curators for wines grown abroad, and Baker said some are known to be “100 percent reliable.” Some of his favorites include Eric Solomon (French and Spanish wines), Jorge Ordonez (Spanish wines) and Kermit Lynch (French and Italian wines).

9 Serve it right. “The ideal serving temperature for red wine is not the temperature in your home when the heat’s blazing,” Baker said. If your thermostat is set to anywhere near 72 degrees, pop the bottle of wine in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before serving to cool it down. If you don’t finish a whole bottle, replace the cork or screw cap and it should last a day or two on your counter. In the case of some complex wines, the flavors might even improve.

10 Banish hangovers. “The No. 1 cause of hangovers is excessive consumption, no matter what you’re drinking,” Baker said. Refill your glass in moderation, especially because red wines are generally higher in alcohol content than white wines (by approximately 1 to 2 percentage points). That can add up over the course of a few glasses, so drink water alongside your wine.

4 TO TRY

It’s time to put your newfound wine knowledge to use. Stop into one of these recently opened shops and find your next favorite.

Que Syrah

3714 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-8888

This Lakeview staple has a new address just a few doors from its original location, but its focus remains on small-production wines. Look for approximately 120 bottles for less than \$13, as well as an expanded selection of wines from Oregon and California.

Free tastings: First Saturday of the month

Independent Spirits, Inc.

5947 N. Broadway 773-989-2115

Open since July, this Edgewater shop offers bottles from small producers as well as Old World gems from Italy, France and Spain, plus a notable selection of craft spirits.

Free tastings: 5-7 p.m. Fridays (wine); 5-7 p.m. Thursdays (spirits)

Paired

3325 N. Halsted St. 773-281-5154

Since taking over the former Kafka Wines space in February, Paired has helped educate Boystown diners on food-friendly wines to bring to some of the neighborhood’s BYOB restaurants. Designated selections in the \$13-\$20 range, as well as an online interactive food-pairing tool, make choosing a bottle easier.

Free tastings: Check pairedwine.com

Just Grapes

1149 N. State St. 312-255-9463

This wine shop relocated in October to the Gold Coast and offers wines for all price points, with a special focus on bottles in the \$15-\$25 range.

Free tastings: 2-4 p.m. Saturdays

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3 TREATS WE CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT



Glogg cake (\$2 a slice) at First Slice Pie Cafe

5357 N. Ashland Ave. 773-275-4297

A slice of this Swedish holiday specialty won't win any beauty pageants, but one bite will convince you of the genius of this recipe. The pound cake is moistened with house-made mulled red wine called glogg. It is dotted with soft raisins, flavored with a whisper of cinnamon and other warm spices and topped with contrasting crunchy silvered almonds. It's only on the menu until this year's batch runs out which, as a testament to its popularity, means about the end of December or even a bit before. If a slice isn't enough, whole cakes (\$10 for small, \$18 for large) are also available.

TRISHA



Sanyal punch (\$8 glass) at Punch House

1227 W. 18th St. 312-526-3651

This belly-warming drink easily could become my go-to for chilly nights. Beverage director Will Duncan combines Chilean pisco, darjeeling tea, pineapple and citrus juices and chili flakes for a spiced and complex punch that nonetheless goes down quite easily. Bring a friend or two and split a carafe (\$38) if you're as into it as I am.

KATE BERNOT

Crispy brussels sprout leaves (\$5) at Azzurra

1467 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-5959

OK, I'll admit it: I am kind of burned out on brussels sprouts. But this new Italian restaurant in Wicker Park (a sibling to Acre, Ombra and Antepima in Andersonville) forgoes the roasted-sprouts-with-bacon treatment that so many restaurants do and instead serves the sprouts separated into super-crispy, wispy leaves dusted generously with pecorino. It was just what I needed to fall in love with this winter veggie again. USA ARNETT

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Show your favorite Chicago bartender some love and nominate him or her for RedEye's Best Bartender competition. (Think of it as a really awesome tip.) If you're a bartender and want to nominate yourself, that's cool with us, too. You've gotta look out for No. 1, right?

Find the nomination form at redeyechicago.com/bartender, and stay tuned for details on how you can vote, drink and eventually help RedEye crown our Best Bartender 2014.



Best Bartender 2012 Jenny Kessler
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE



Best Bartender 2013 Meg Silvas
HILLARY HIGGINS FILE FOR REDEYE

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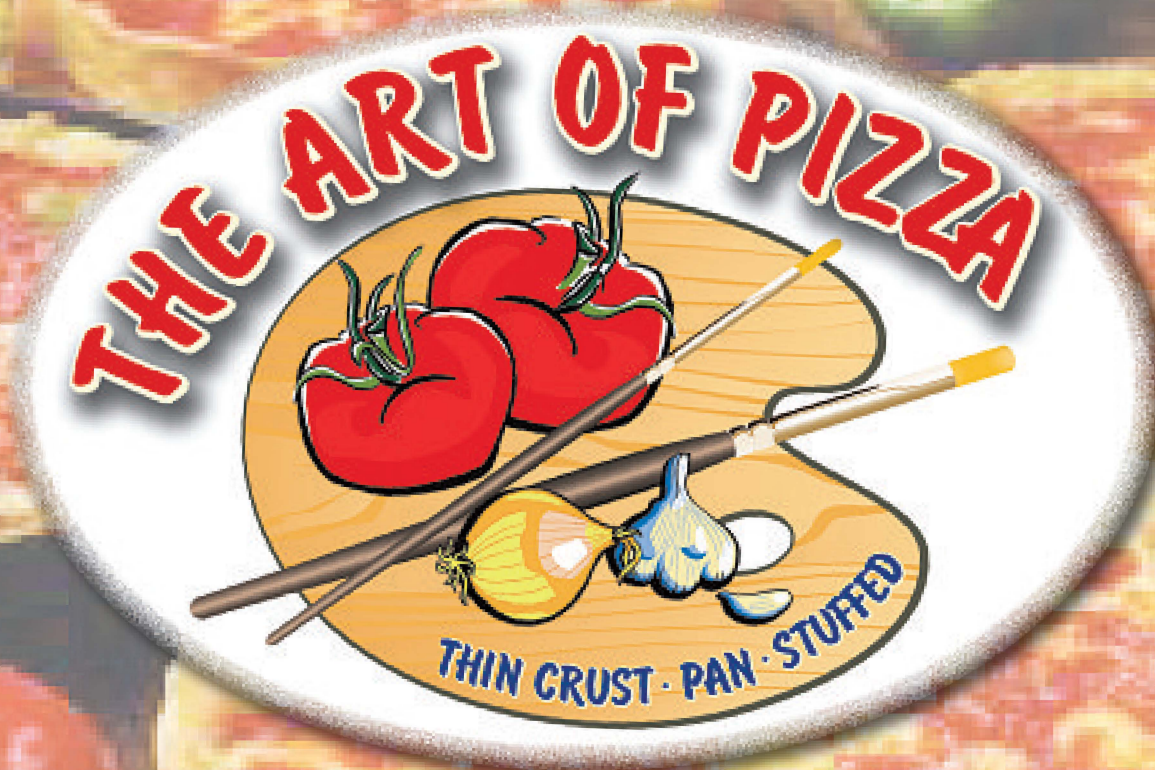
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Do your worst for these ugly sweater parties

By **Kato Bernot** | REDEYE

Itchy polyester covered in bows, jingle bells and puff paint—you know you love it. The semi-ironic ugly sweater party has become something of a new tradition, with bars offering drink specials, contests and themes to encourage guests to go over-the-top with their cringe-worthy clothes. Bust out your best—or, worst—sweater for one of these bashes. KBERNOT@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEEATDRINK

Ultimate Ugly Sweater Party at Barcito

151 W. Erie St. 312-274-1111 When: Saturday

A two-hour open bar kicks off this River North bar's tribute to tackiness complete with appetizers, a punch bowl of Spanish-style egg nog, DJ music and a chance to win a \$200 Mercadito restaurant group gift card for the ugliest sweater. 9 p.m. \$35.



TRIBUNE FILE

American Junkie Ugly Sweater Party

15 W. Illinois St. 312-239-0995

When: Wednesday

Maker's Mark teams up with the River North bar for a party that kicks off with an hour of complimentary Maker's Mark cocktails and free "sweaters" that fit over a Maker's Mark bottle, followed by a cash bar with drink specials and a \$150 American Junkie gift card given to the wearer of the gaudiest sweater. 7-10 p.m. No cover.

Ugly Sweater Party at John Barleycorn Lincoln Park

658 W. Belden Ave. 773-348-1570 When: Dec. 19

Raid your mom's closet for a sweater, then bring a new, unwrapped toy with you to the bar; all toys will be donated to hospitalized children with cancer through Project Ladybug. Order food and drink specials including \$3 Jameson Irish whiskey and Fireball cinnamon whiskey shots, \$4 craft draft beers, \$4 well cocktails, \$3 select domestic beers, \$3 nachos and \$6 half-pound cheeseburgers with fries. Gift cards will be awarded for the ugliest outfits. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.

Ugly Sweater Party at Rockit Bar & Grill

22 W. Hubbard St. 312-645-6000

When: Dec. 20

Take off your blazer and put on a sweater for Rockit's party, where festive attire earns you 20 percent off your food bill while you sip specialty drinks such as \$6 Apple Jameson and Deschutes Jubelale and enjoy live music from cover band Rendition. 9 p.m. No cover.



MCE FILE

Moe's Cantina Wrigleyville Ugly Sweater Party

3518 N. Clark St. 773-248-0002

When: Dec. 20

Snack at a two-hour complimentary buffet while sipping drink specials including \$5 Candy Cane cocktails, \$5 domestic bottles and \$5 glasses of sangria and compete for gift cards awarded to the ugliest sweater wearer. Bring unopened, non-perishable food to donate to the Greater Chicago Food Depository for free admission; \$10 cash donation will be accepted in lieu of food. 8-10 p.m.

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Studdard: No 'Biggest Loser' conspiracy

Tribune Newspapers

'American Idol' winner Ruben Studdard concedes that his weight loss on "The Biggest Loser" was less than stellar, leading to last week's elimination and marking the second time he was eliminated from the show for failing to lose enough weight.

But off-screen? The balladeer Velvet Teddy Bear—who joined the weight loss reality show at **462 pounds**—says he is down 113 pounds, and counting.

Perhaps more telling? He said he recently ran a 5K race, and was surprised that he still had some energy left at the finish line.

"After the second mile I still wasn't tired," he said. "I was coming across the finish line I was like, 'Wow, I probably could have ran that a lot faster.'... I most definitely feel like 'The Biggest Loser' helped with that because I'm in much better physical condition."

Speaking during a media conference call, Studdard dismissed speculation that the show pulled strings to bring him back after his first elimination. (Producers determined that trainer Jillian Michaels broke show rules by giving her players caffeine supplements. That violation led to the earlier week's elimination being overturned, paving the way for Studdard's return.)

"Well, I don't think that happened," Studdard said. "I don't think it at all was any conspiracy to bring me back. ... It's just something that happened and because of fairness, you know, the issues, they brought me back."

He said he has two priorities until the finale: his new album, and continuing to work on his health. Asked whether he would perform at the finale, he said: "You never know. ... Watch and see what happens."

Studdard knew going home wouldn't be easy. "I knew in the back of my mind that I still had a lot of work that was waiting on me when I left the ranch. ... The album that I had to work on with David Foster and I had to continue to work on myself."



“ I was coming across the finish line I was like, 'Wow, I probably could have ran that a lot faster.' ”
 —Ruben Studdard on recently running a 5K race



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Nicky Whelan (left)
and Milo Ventimiglia
in 'Chosen'

'Chosen' snaps on Crackle



SHOW PATROL

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In the first season of Crackle's "Chosen," a Los Angeles lawyer and his family couldn't avoid a deadly game of kill-or-be-killed, finally succumbing to the twisted desires of the mysterious puppet master who was pulling their strings.

The second season continues the story of Ian Mitchell (Milo Ventimiglia); his

ex-wife, Laura (Nicky Whelan); and their daughter, who all are on the run after Laura received an order she did not wish to carry out in the Season 1 cliffhanger. I won't spoil that for newcomers, in case you want to catch up before the free online streaming service presents six new 20-minute episodes, which Ventimiglia co-produced with Ryan Lewis and director Ben Ketai. (The series already has been given a third season.)

Chad Michael Murray joins the cast this season, playing struggling bartender Jacob Orr, whom we first see at a party thrown by his wealthy pal, Max Banyan (Brandon Routh). The premiere pulls you in as soon as Jacob hops in his car and finds a wooden box containing a gun, a photo of a stranger and a clock that counts down to his deadline to kill the person in the photo. It's the same box that both Mitchells, and others, received in the first season.

After being shot at by another player and witnessing that guy's attack by yet another



Chosen

Thursday at crackle.com

amateur assassin, Jacob slowly realizes that the game isn't a joke created by Max. Or is Max really behind the game? The joy of this thriller is that viewers, like the characters, are never quite sure who is in charge and how he or she is controlling the playing field—from phone calls to surveillance videos to law enforcement.

One could worry that the action series would just repeat its basic plot with new players, but the new season adds layers as the Mitchells struggle with the knowledge that their daughter was allowed to watch video of them terminating a player. This gives Ventimiglia and Whelan the chance to show more than just action-hero chops.

The show is well-acted all around, with newcomer Murray wearing the hangdog look of a down-and-out former golden boy who comes to life only when his brother's life is threatened by the game's conspirators. Instead of simply doing as he's told, at least in the early episodes, Jacob tries to figure out how to get out and stop the game.

Jacob, the Mitchells and the other unwilling players face a moral dilemma at the center of the series: How do they protect their own without becoming killers?

Last season, Crackle sent all six episodes for review and I devoured them quickly. This time around I only got to check out two episodes, and I'm counting down to Thursday, when I can watch the rest.

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tv

'16 and Pregnant' not welcome in Tinley Park

Chicago Tribune

MTV's controversial show "16 and Pregnant" is unwelcome in Tinley Park, as village officials and school leaders have pushed back against possible filming in the community.

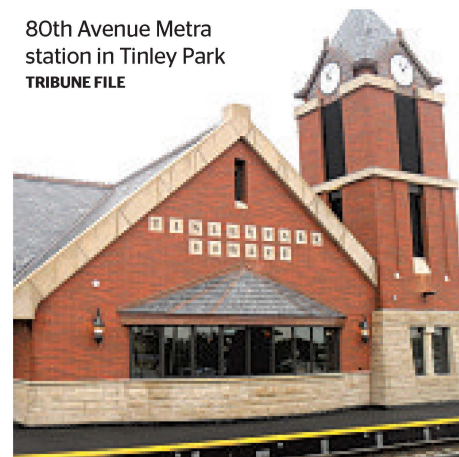
When Tinley Park Mayor Ed Zabrocki heard the show might be shooting at the 80th Avenue train station's restaurant, he sent word to the owner of Parmesans Station that the show's cameras would be unwelcome on Tinley property.

"I heard wind of it, and that's when I went and said, 'I don't want any of our village buildings used in it,'" Zabrocki said.

Officials at Andrew High School declined this summer to allow MTV's cameras on campus, principal Bob Nolting said.

MTV spokeswoman Melissa Barreto declined comment on local officials' chilly reception to the show, which chronicles a five-to seven-month period in a teenager's life "as she navigates the bumpy terrain of adolescence, growing pains, rebellion, and com-

80th Avenue Metra station in Tinley Park
TRIBUNE FILE



ing of age" while pregnant, according to the series' website.

For Zabrocki the show presents "a bad image."

"I think [it] glamorizes [being] 16 and pregnant, and I don't think there's anything glamorous about it," Zabrocki said.

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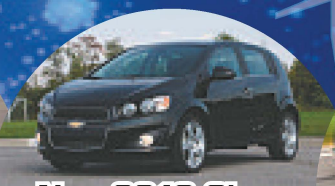
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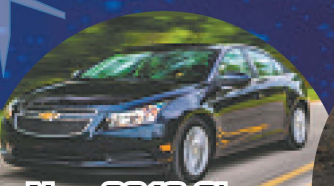
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Make-or-break movie scenes

One moment can bring a whole film into focus

Los Angeles Times

There is usually one scene in the making of a film—either during shooting or sometimes later in the editing bay—that brings the story together, sets the tone or bonds the director with the crew. Five directors with pictures out this year talked about just such a moment with their films.

Paul Greengrass, "Captain Phillips"

"Where the pirates come on the bridge—that's a very important scene because it's vital to convey what these young men are about. They're heavily armed, they'll stop at nothing, they're trying to get money. I wanted to make a film that was about modern-day piracy and to convey what it felt like to be in a container ship crew being taken by pirates. The look on [Tom Hanks'] face is unbelievable shock when they climb up the side of the ship and he realizes he's lost his ship."

Ryan Coogler, "Fruitvale Station"

"The really important scene for me was the first day we began shooting. It was the first day I was making a feature, the first day with the crew, and it was a flashback where Oscar [Michael B. Jordan] and his girlfriend have some time alone in her grandmother's house and they talk. It was a really important scene in their arc, and I was really proud of how everyone handled it. Even in the editorial process, one of the editors flagged that scene as being really on and together, and I was proud at how it came out."

John Lee Hancock, "Saving Mr. Banks"

"We wanted to set up P.L. Travers [Emma Thompson] as the proper British woman, coming to Los Angeles where everything is too bright and sunny. Walt Disney is bright and sunny, and everything is too hot for her in Los Angeles. So we had to set those attitudes from the point of not only where we shot but how we



Ben Stiller, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" "For us, the core dilemma was with the fantasies. Walter has these fantasies as he goes through his day, and it was challenging to keep the forward momentum of the movie, then take these left turns into fantasies, even though they were an important part of his character development. So we had to figure out how to edit those fantasies to feel like they were supposed to be there and weren't chopping up the story."

shot the scenes, and make it indicative of her character, so we had to get that correct right off the bat—when she first gets off the plane."

Nicole Holofcener, "Enough Said"

"The first or second date between James' [Gandolfini] and Julia's [Louis-Dreyfus] characters. The first date has four parts: the line standing outside, then in the restaurant, the yogurt place and then they're in the car. That sequence tells a lot about what could happen in this movie and the tone it could take on, so we had to get that right."



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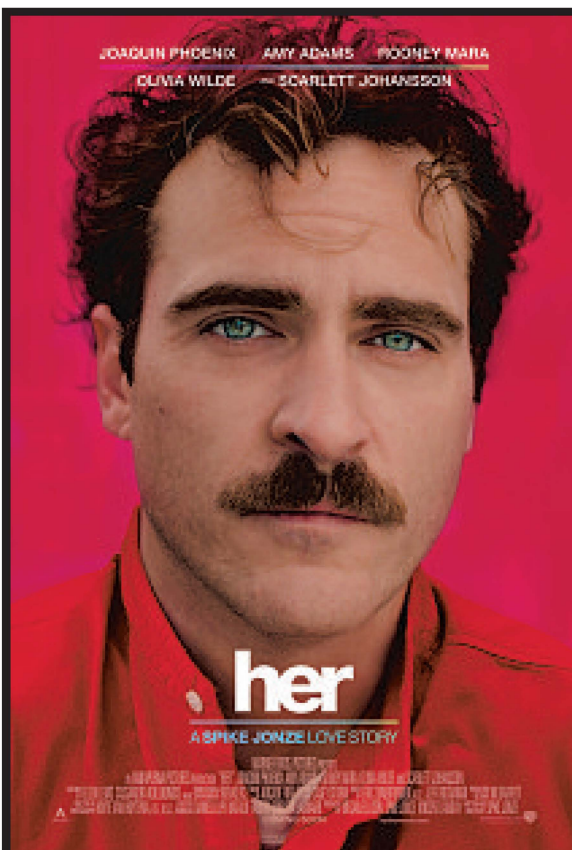
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■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) D 1:30, 3:30, 4:45, 7:00, 8:15, 10:15
■Out of the Furnace (R) ★ D (Closed caption) 1:25, 4:10, 6:50, 9:10
■About Time (R) D 2:10
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ D 12:01
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 12:01
■Delivery Man (PG-13) D 1:55, 4:00, 6:35, 9:30
■The Best Man Holiday (R) D 1:50, 4:40, 7:40
■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ D 8:00, 10:45
■Black Nativity (PG) D 1:40, 4:25
■Homefront (R) D 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

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■Dallas Buyers Club (R) D (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:05, 7:20, 9:55
■12 Years a Slave (R) D (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:20, 7:45
■Nebraska (R) D (Closed caption) 1:45, 3:00, 4:35, 7:15, 8:40, 10:00
■Blue Is the Warmest Color (NC-17) D 1:00, 4:50, 8:30
■The Book Thief (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
■Philomena (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:40, 6:00, 7:10, 9:35

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■The Hobbit Marathon in RealD 3D (NR) ★ 8:30
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:01
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 12:01
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:01
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:01
■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) (Closed caption) 8:00, 10:45, 11:45
■Narco Cultura (R) 11:30, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05
■Out of the Furnace (R) (Closed caption) 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40
■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 11:00, 11:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:10, 7:50, 9:00
■Oldboy (R) (Closed caption) 11:25, 6:15
■Homefront (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15
■Frozen 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:50, 10:50
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:10, 3:20, 6:50, 8:45, 10:30, 11:55
■Delivery Man (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:05, 1:35, 4:05, 6:35, 9:05
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 1:30, 5:00, 8:30
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire -- The IMAX Experience (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:20, 4:00, 7:30
■The Best Man Holiday (R) (Closed caption) 11:05, 1:55, 4:55, 7:55, 10:55
■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:55
■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 4:35
■Free Birds (PG) (Closed caption) 12:45
■Ender's Game (PG-13) (Closed caption) 3:25, 6:15, 9:05
■Gravity 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:25, 4:15, 6:35, 9:05
■Gravity (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:55

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4814 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
■Out of the Furnace (R) ★ 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
■Frozen (PG) ★ 4:40, 7:20, 9:45
■Homefront (R) ★ 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ 12:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■Frozen (PG) D 10:55, 11:30, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50
■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) D 1:00, 4:05, 6:55, 10:00
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) D 11:20, 12:00, 2:55, 3:30, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15
■Out of the Furnace (R) ★ D (Closed caption) 11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10
■Frozen 3D (PG) 1:30, 6:30
■Lee Daniels' The Butler (PG-13) D 11:55, 3:10, 6:15
■Oldboy (R) D 3:40, 9:25
■Delivery Man (PG-13) D 10:45, 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55
■The Best Man Holiday (R) D 10:45, 12:30, 1:40, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 9:40
■Free Birds (PG) D 10:50, 1:10, 3:25
■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ D 8:00, 9:00, 10:00
■Black Nativity (PG) D 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35
■Homefront (R) D 11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
■Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) D 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
■AMC Independent 12 Years a Slave (R) D 12:15, 6:25

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
(312) 846-2800
■The Woman in the Window (NR) 6:00
■In a World... (R) 6:00
■Is the Man Who Is Tall Happy? An Animated Conversation With Noam Chomsky (NR) 8:00
■20 Feet From Stardom (PG-13) 8:00

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
■Gravity (PG-13) 2:15, 4:10, 6:05, 8:00, 9:55
■Kill Your Darlings (R) 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25
■12 Years a Slave (R) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
■Miracle on 34th Street (NR) 10:30

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
■Bettie Page Reveals All (R) 5:10, 9:40
■The Ghosts in Our Machine (NR) 5:00, 7:20
■National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (PG-13) 7:30

THE PATIO THEATRE

6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291
■No Films Showing Today (NR)

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago

888-AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ D 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 12:01

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ D 8:00, 10:30, 12:01

■Hobbit Double Feature 3D (NR) ★ 8:30

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago

(800) 326-3264 #2309

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ D 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 12:01

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ D 8:00

■Hobbit Double Feature 3D (NR) ★ 8:30

■Hobbit Double Feature IMAX 3D (NR) ★ 8:30

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago

(800) 326-3264 #1641

■The Hobbit Marathon in RealD 3D (NR) ★ 8:30

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:01

■Out of the Furnace (R) (Closed caption) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40

■Black Nativity (PG) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00

■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10

■Frozen 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 9:50

■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption)

11:00, 12:00, 2:30, 3:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:20

■Delivery Man (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25

■The Best Man Holiday (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 2:15, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50

■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:40, 5:05, 7:45, 10:45

■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:25

■About Time (R) (Closed caption) 10:50, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30

■Captain Phillips (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:35

■Gravity 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 10:10

■Gravity (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:20

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago

(800) 326-3264 #1646

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ D 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 12:01

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ D 8:00

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero

(800) 326-3264 #1644

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) D 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) 12:01

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago

(312) 564-2104

■Hobbit Double Feature 3D (NR) ★ ✓ 9:01

■Gravity 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:15

■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) ✓ (Closed caption) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 12:02, 12:10

■Frozen 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 1:30, 9:30

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:15

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:05

■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:50, 7:50

■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:30, 6:10, 9:40

■12 Years a Slave (R) (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:10, 6:20, 9:50

■Dallas Buyers Club (R) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:40

■Out of the Furnace (R) ★ (Closed caption) 1:20, 3:20, 4:30, 6:00, 7:20, 9:00, 10:15

■Oldboy (R) (Closed caption) 12:40

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:00

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ 11:05

■Delivery Man (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:00

■Delivery Man (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:00, 5:10, 8:10

■The Best Man Holiday (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10

■The Book Thief (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45

■Homefront (R) (Closed caption) 10:00

■Homefront (R) (Closed caption) 12:45, 3:45

■Black Nativity (PG) (Closed caption) 1:15, 3:40, 6:30, 9:15

■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:50, 4:10, 6:50

■VIP Premium 21+ (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:30, 7:00

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) VIP Premium 21+ 12:01

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) VIP Premium 21+ 12:15

■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:30, 4:00

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) VIP Premium 21+ 8:00

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park

(630) 444-FILM #560

■The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 8:00

■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:20, 7:00

■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45, 4:20

■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:30, 1:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00

■Out of the Furnace (R) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

■Frozen 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 4:40, 9:20

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00

■The Book Thief (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35

■Philomena (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20,

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:01

■Hobbit Double Feature 3D (NR) 9:00

■Hobbit Double Feature 3D (NR) 9:00



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movies



'12 Years a Slave'

'12 Years,' 'The Butler' snag SAG nominations

Reuters

LOS ANGELES The actors who portrayed the brutality of American slavery in the film "12 Years a Slave" won the most nominations for Screen Actors Guild awards Wednesday, giving the movie momentum in the run-up to the Oscars.

"12 Years a Slave," based on the real-life story of Solomon Northup, garnered nominations in four of SAG's five film categories, including the organization's top award, best ensemble cast. British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, who plays the free black man sold into slavery on Louisiana plantations, was nominated for best actor.

And in another endorsement of film on American black history, the Hollywood actors group revived the awards fortunes of the civil rights drama "Lee Daniels' The Butler," nominating it for best ensemble cast, and Forest Whitaker as the White House butler and Oprah Winfrey as his troubled wife in best actor and best supporting actress categories, respectively.

Rounding out the best ensemble cast category—a key indicator for the Oscar best picture—were family dysfunction drama "August: Osage County," AIDS treatment tale "Dallas Buyers Club," which also landed a total of three nominations; and the 1970s con-artist drama "American Hustle," which earned two.

The SAG awards are a key indicator during Hollywood's busy awards season that culminates with the Academy Awards, which will be

handed out in March, because actors make up one of the largest voting groups for the Oscars. Winners of SAG awards will be announced in a ceremony in L.A. on Jan. 18.

The SAG nominations underscored the big year for black and race-themed films and for black filmmakers like Lee Daniels and Steve McQueen, the British director of "12 Years a Slave."

"Perhaps they've come about because with a black president in the White House, it's somehow easier to talk about these subjects than it was before," said Scott Foundas, chief film critic at Variety.

The nominations also reflected a predilection for intimate films made with small budgets. "Dallas Buyers Club," starring Matthew McConaughey as a straight rodeo cowboy fighting for access to AIDS treatment, was made for a mere \$5 million, while "12 Years a Slave" came in at less than \$20 million. That contrasts with blockbuster action films that often cost more than \$100 million.

SAG also announced nominations for best television performances of the year, giving best ensemble cast nods to best drama Emmy winner "Breaking Bad," along with "Boardwalk Empire," "Downton Abbey," "Game of Thrones" and "Homeland."

The upstart in television, streaming company Netflix, garnered three nominations for its new original programs, political thriller "House of Cards" and "Arrested Development."

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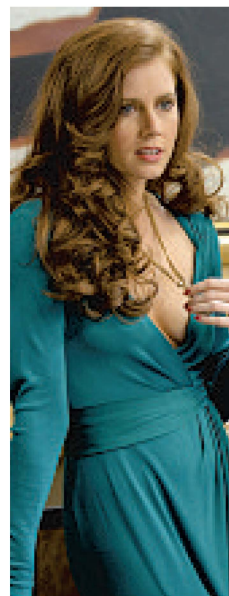
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movies

SAG Awards nominations: Snubs and surprises

Los Angeles Times

The nominees for the 2014 SAG Awards were announced Wednesday morning. Some nominations came as a surprise, while others were surprisingly missing. Here is a look at some nomination snubs and surprises.



Amy Adams, 'American Hustle'

Despite being singled out by many critics' groups and having a larger role than her co-star Jennifer Lawrence, Amy Adams was shut out of a nomination for her role as con artist Sydney Prosser in David O. Russell's "American Hustle." Lawrence, meanwhile, received a supporting actress nomination and the entire cast was recognized in the ensemble category.

Oprah Winfrey, 'Lee Daniels' The Butler'

It took some convincing on the part of director Lee Daniels to get media mogul Oprah Winfrey to return to acting, but it paid off. Winfrey's performance as the wife of White House butler Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker) earned her a supporting actress nomination.

'Mad Men'

AMC's critics' darling has already won two SAG awards for its ensemble cast, but as the series heads toward its final episodes, it appears to have been muscled aside by younger upstarts. The drama failed to get any SAG nominations this year, not even for its ensemble.

Oscar Isaac, 'Inside Llewyn Davis'

Joel and Ethan Coen's love letter to folk music has been hailed by critics as one of their very best films. But that love didn't pass to anyone in the cast from SAG, most notably star Oscar Isaac as struggling folk singer Llewyn Davis. The film was not nominated for its ensemble cast or for Isaac as lead actor.



'Orange is the New Black'

Netflix made a big showing at this year's Emmy Awards, and many critics have lauded "Orange Is the New Black" as the best of Netflix's original productions, but all that critical love was not enough to land "Orange" with any SAG nominations. Meanwhile, fellow streamers "House of Cards" and "Arrested Development" picked up nominations.

Michael B. Jordan, 'Fruitvale Station'

Michael B. Jordan won an award for breakthrough actor at the Gotham Awards for his portrayal of Bay Area shooting victim Oscar Grant, but that didn't give him enough momentum to be recognized by SAG.

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web



Psy
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Heyyy, sexy pop star!

Los Angeles Times

YouTube has released its ranking of the most popular videos of 2013, and for the second year in a row, the most-viewed video belongs to South Korean pop star Psy, with "Gentleman."

The pelvis-thrusting, ponytail-shaking, practical joke-playing workout tallied 598 million views during the year to top all comers—except his own breakthrough "Gangnam Style," which has now accumulated triple that number with 1.8 billion views, the highest viewership ever on YouTube.

Comfortably behind Psy, not surprisingly, is Miley Cyrus' skin-baring "Wrecking Ball,"

which has generated 393 million views. She also snagged third place with "Wrecking Ball's" visual predecessor, "We Can't Stop," at 304 million views.

Katy Perry's "Roar" landed in fourth place with 251 million views, followed by Pink's "Just Give Me a Reason" at 236 million views.

Filling out the Top 10: Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" (231 million), Rihanna's "Stay" (219 million), Naughty Boy's "La La La" (201 million), Avicii's "Wake Me Up" (184 million) and Selena Gomez's "Come & Get It" (181 million).

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Will 'Family Guy' game let players kill Brian?

Chicago Tribune

"Family Guy" fans soon will have another pastime that fits with Peter Griffin's preferred level of physical activity: a video game for mobile devices.

Fox Digital Entertainment, the mobile content division of 20th Century Fox, has teamed with San Francisco start-up TinyCo to put out the yet-unnamed game based on "Family Guy," the irreverent animated comedy.

The game will launch early next year for iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, the companies said Tuesday. TinyCo is working with the writers from Seth MacFarlane's Fuzzy Door Productions on the role-playing game in which players control the characters from the "Family Guy" hometown of Quahog, R.I., through various adventures.

One of the important challenges, said Andrew N. Green, TinyCo's head of business development, is to make sure the humor of the show carries into the game.

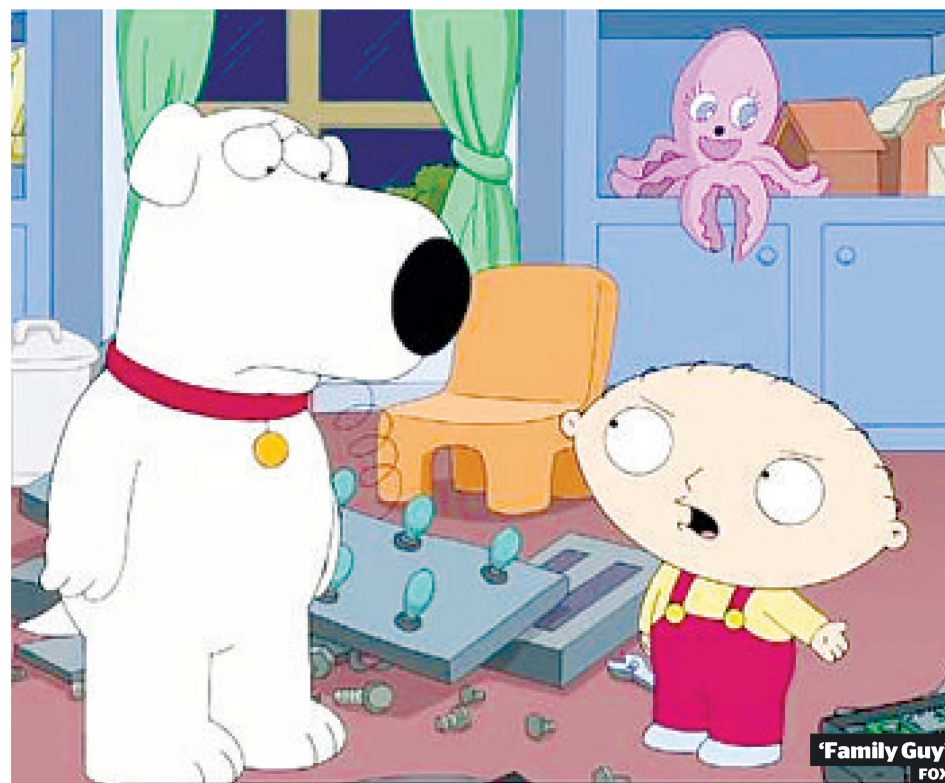
"We want you to laugh your ass off," he said. "We're trying to pull off the humor and the dialogue and the satire as much as possible. If that doesn't get captured in the game in a really authentic way, no one's going to want to play it."

The game, which will be free to play, will make money when users make a digital goods purchase off the game application.

The companies said it will feature original storylines that pull elements from the 200-plus "Family Guy" episodes, as well as current events. (Foreshadowing the tone of the humor, a promotional photo shows Peter sitting on a toilet while playing on his phone.)

The series is in the middle of its 12th season, and a recent episode drew fans' ire after killing off a main character—the talking, martini-sipping dog Brian. The companies would not say whether Brian might be resurrected for the app.

This isn't the first time Fox has made a game or app based on one of its brands. The



studio has put out a number of products, including a "Glee" karaoke app (no longer in

service), and games such as "Angry Birds Rio" and "The Simpsons: Tapped Out."




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11 MAZDA MAZDA2 HATCHBACK PW, PL, BALANCE OF FACTORY WARRANTY, #054258 \$10,989* OR \$209^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	08 FORD MUSTANG CONV. PREM LEATHER, BLACK LEATHER, LOADED, LOW MILES, #2032 \$12,989* OR \$249^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	06 JEEP COMMANDER LTD 4X4 LEATHER, MINIROOF, BLACK, LTHR, MINIROOF, NEML, #X2017 \$14,989* OR \$329^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	07 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ 4X4 LTHR, MINIROOF, NAVI, CHROME WHEELS, LOADED, #20104 \$18,989* OR \$359^ PER MO W/500 DOWN
11 FORD FIESTA SES CMT, PW, 3RD ROW, AUTO, LOW MILES, FORD CERTIFIED, #2032 \$13,989* OR \$269^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	12 TOYOTA COROLLA LE POWER WINDOWS, POWER LOCKS, AUTO, #X2014 \$15,989* OR \$299^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	07 FORD EXPEDITION LTD LEATHER, MINIROOF, NAVI, LOADED, #100584 \$18,989* OR \$359^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	10 GMC TERRAIN SLE 4WD LEATHER, MINIROOF, FULLY LOADED, CHROME WHEELS, #X2045 \$19,989* OR \$379^ PER MO W/500 DOWN
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03 FORD LIGHTNING SVT BLUE, 1 OWNER, 47K MILES, PROSTING, #X3911 \$20,989* OR \$459^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	09 RAM 1500 SLT QC 4X4 NEML, ALLOYS, PW, PL, TILT, CRUISE, #X1511A \$20,989* OR \$399^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	12 MINI COOPER S 1 OWNER, EXTRA CLEAN, LTHR, SUNROOF, ALUM WHEELS, #X2023 \$21,989* OR \$419^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	08 BMW 535i LTHR, MINIROOF, COLO PKG, 41K MILES, #X3015 \$22,989* OR \$439^ PER MO W/500 DOWN
08 TOYOTA TUNDRA SCS CREW MAX 4X4 07-10M PW, ALLOYS, TAILGATE, PW, LOADED, #11114 \$24,989* OR \$479^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	11 FORD F-150 4DR 4X4 XLT LOW MILES, #1099A \$25,989* OR \$499^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	10 MERCEDES-BENZ R350 4MATIC SPORT PKG, NAVI, MINIROOF, LOADED, #103584 \$28,989* OR \$559^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	14 FORD TAURUS LTD LEATHER, 1K TOP OF THE LINE PRE-OWNED, #X2033 \$28,989* OR \$559^ PER MO W/500 DOWN
13 FORD F-150 CREW CAB 4X4 XLT 31k Choose at Varying Prices! FORD CERT, LOW MILES, PRE-OWNED, LOADED, #2320 \$32,989* OR \$629^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	05 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LTD LTHR, MINIROOF, CHROME WHEELS, ONLY 55K MILES, #1895 \$9,989* OR \$219^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	11 LEXUS IS350 AWD NAVI, SUNROOF, EXTRA CLEAN, #X2212 \$28,989* OR \$559^ PER MO W/500 DOWN	13 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED FORD CERT, LTHR, 47K SEATS, PRE-OWNED, LOADED, #X2011A \$34,989* OR \$669^ PER MO W/500 DOWN
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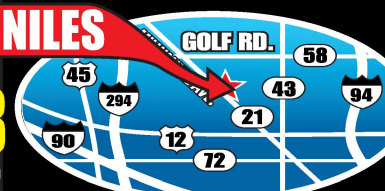


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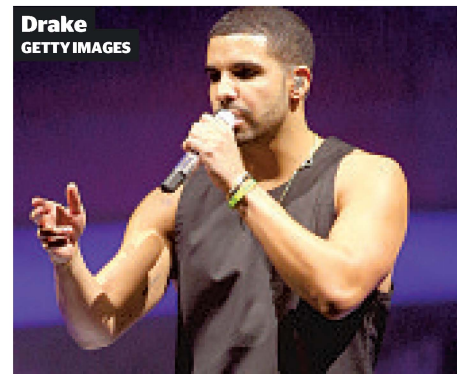
» lgomez@tribune.com
» @aboutluisgomez

Drake will make a scheduled appearance Thursday at Paris Club's upstairs club, Studio Paris. The rapper/singer will be in Chicago for his concert earlier that night at the United Center.

Drake's "Would You Like a Tour?" was originally supposed to make a stop at the United Center in October but was rescheduled, according to a press release, due to "an intense rehearsal schedule and technical production requirements that will be part of the show."

While Drake is not technically scheduled to perform at Studio Paris, artists making similar types of appearances have been known to take the stage for a couple of songs. Studio Paris has hosted performances this year by Sean Paul, Steve Aoki, Ellie Goulding and Jason Derulo, among others.

(Derulo will appear Saturday at American



Junkie's upstairs club, Attic, following his performance at B96's Jingle Bash at Allstate Arena. Again, don't be surprised if he performs.)

On Saturday, Drake's "Welcome to the Family" clothing line will be available for one day only at RSVP Gallery in Bucktown. Chicago is one of six cities where the line—a collaboration between Cash Money Records and Drake's record label, October's Very Own—will be available this weekend.

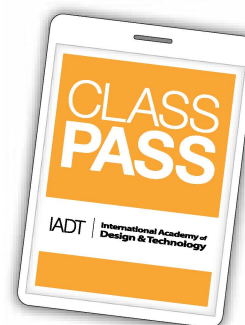
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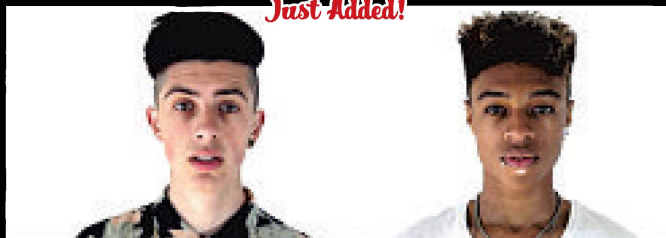
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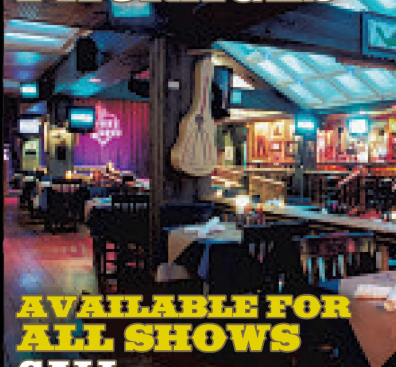
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

S	K	I	T		P	A	T	E	S		C	L	A	P
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E	Y	E	S		R	I	L	E	D		U	S	E	D

ACROSS

- 1 Mix with a wooden spoon
- 5 Pile up
- 10 Chess or poker
- 14 Glass square
- 15 Gut feeling
- 16 Plow animals
- 17 Carney and Garfunkel
- 18 Firstborn of two
- 19 Pleased
- 20 Unflinching
- 22 Chicken __; take-out tidbits
- 24 Layer of grass
- 25 Refuse to obey
- 26 Often state-run game
- 29 Affirmative
- 30 More modern
- 34 Gorillas and chimpanzees
- 35 Carpet
- 36 Dwell
- 37 Actress Arthur
- 38 Military greetings
- 40 Pass away
- 41 On the wrong path
- 43 Toilet seat cover
- 44 At someone's __ and call
- 45 Lariat
- 46 Late Bernie __
- 47 Britches
- 48 Not smashed
- 50 Bill denomination
- 51 Lacking flavor
- 54 Wound covering
- 58 __ up; shreds
- 59 Friendlier
- 61 Eur. language
- 62 Make bootees
- 63 Protect
- 64 Cut the edges off of
- 65 __ up; arranges
- 66 __-headed; scatterbrained
- 67 Without

DOWN

- 1 Hot tubs
- 2 Small fruit pie
- 3 Crash __; ram
- 4 Fends off
- 5 Get __ of; surpass
- 6 __ over; contemplate
- 7 Most common conjunction
- 8 Act divisions
- 9 Bush
- 10 Eye protectors
- 11 Wheel rod
- 12 Ham or beef
- 13 Stops
- 21 Pigeon's sound
- 23 Barry and Kelly
- 25 Usual; normal
- 26 Shirt neck tag
- 27 Met production
- 28 Drops of joy or sorrow
- 29 Actor Brynner
- 31 Make broader
- 32 Royal decree
- 33 Has used too much perfume
- 35 Rodent
- 36 Sunburned
- 38 Be nosy
- 39 Facial twitch
- 42 Helps
- 44 Robbers
- 46 T-shirt size
- 47 Pigsty
- 49 Unrestrained spree
- 50 Late for school
- 51 Irritates
- 52 Four and five
- 53 Barbecue rod
- 54 Parks or Lahr
- 55 Gillette razor brand
- 56 Make progress
- 57 Lawn trees
- 60 Tam or beret

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65						66						67			

TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1925: The first motel—the Motel Inn—opened in San Luis Obispo, Calif.
1975: Sara Jane Moore pleaded guilty to a charge of trying to kill President Gerald Ford in San Francisco the previous September.
1998: The House Judiciary Committee approved a fourth and final article of impeachment, this one accusing President Bill Clinton of abuse of power.

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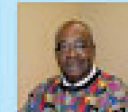


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whoville MASSIVE ATTACK

Coming soon ... ‘Godzilla’ or ‘Jupiter Ascending’?

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

2014 is shaping up to be a very sci-fi-licious year indeed. Trailers dropped Tuesday for “Jupiter Ascending,” which was filmed in Chicago, and “Godzilla,” which was filmed somewhere a little more giant lizard-friendly. Nonetheless, we couldn’t help but wonder if the differences between the two are really noticeable. See if you can pair these screengrabs with the movies they came from, knowing nothing about the plot of either one.

DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA



SCENE 1: Are they saving her life ... or about to KILL HER?



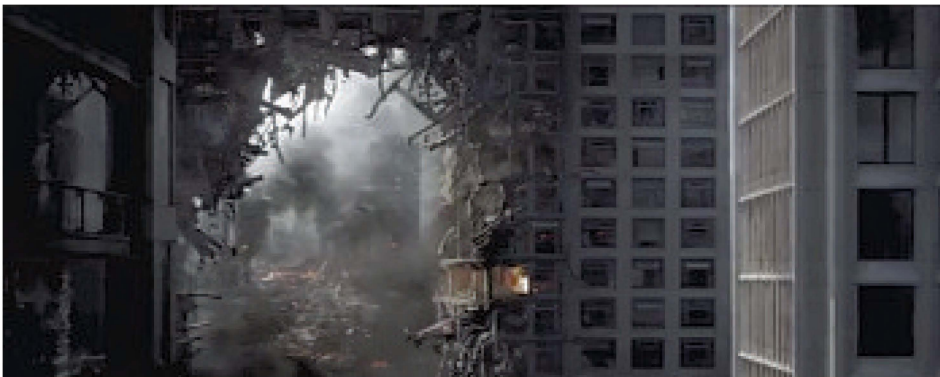
SCENE 2: Why so serious, dude?



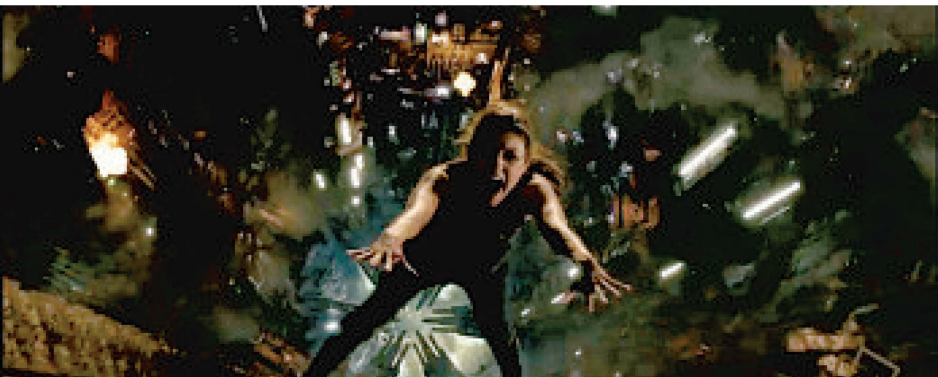
SCENE 3: Searching for man, woman ... or BEAST?



SCENE 4: Sweet space digs, bro.



SCENE 5: Looks like someone made themselves at home



SCENE 6: Uh, we don’t really see any safety net going on here ...

ANSWER KEY

Scene 6: “Jupiter”

Scene 5: “Godzilla”

Scene 4: “Jupiter”

Scene 3: “Godzilla”

Scene 2: “Godzilla”

Scene 1: “Jupiter”

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red hot

These toppings rock!

What's the best way to get your band back together after a year of no performances? Pizzal Gearing up for their upcoming shows in Mexico, the Foo Fighters played a 23-song set at Rock & Roll Pizza in Moorpark, Calif., rollingstone.com reports. We're steaming with jealousy that Chicago's Piece pizza didn't get this honor.



BILL HOGAN/
TRIBUNE FILE

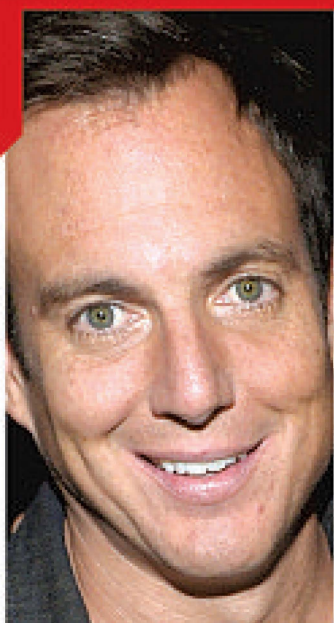
THE DIGIT

25

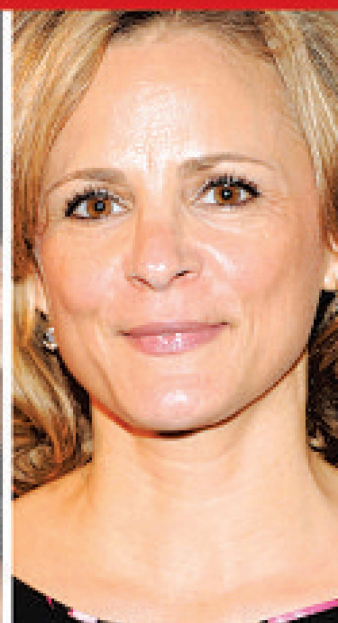


GETTY IMAGES

That's how many years Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson have been married. Hanks appeared on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" on Wednesday to talk about his lady love. "I'm not one to suck up to the audience, but the only thing we ever argue about is who loves each other more," the 57-year-old Oscar-winner said. Come on, you NEVER fight about Chet Haze?



Will Arnett



Amy Sedaris



Aaron Paul

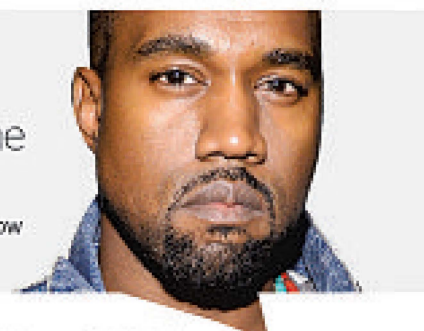
QUIT HORSIN' AROUND

Netflix knows just what you need this holiday season—a new original series. The company on Tuesday announced its next project: a 12-episode animated series called "BoJack Horseman," the A.V. Club reports. Will Arnett will voice a drunken horse, Aaron Paul will be his human sidekick and Amy Sedaris is set to bring it as his cat agent/ex-lover. Yes, horse-cat sex. You can't catch this on network TV.

THE QUOTE

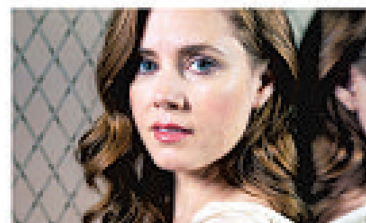
"Yeezus" is the top one or two album on every single list, but only gets two nominations from the Grammys. What are they trying to say?"

—Kanye West, to the audience at his Phoenix concert Tuesday night. Oh Kanye, you know the Grammys aren't about which albums actually have merit.



Grounded

Apparently there IS someone who can tell Angelina Jolie what to do. Eonline.com reports that the re-registration for her private plane was rejected over the summer and needs corrections. Dudes, this is Maleficent. You don't get in her way. She can turn into a dragon.



Two of a kind

Amy Adams has been nominated for an Oscar four times, but some people STILL don't know who she is. "I get Isla Fisher all the time, still," the "American Hustle" star told Vanity Fair. "But just like I tell her, it could be a lot worse. I could be mistaken for a lot worse people." That's true ...

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